



“A modern state offers a target sensitive to a blow from the air.”  
—B.H. Liddell Hart

## CSAF explains combat wing organization

### Compiled from staff reports

The 47th Support Group will cease to exist Aug. 9 when it changes to the 47th Mission Support Group as part of the wing reorganization designed to standardize operations across the Air Force.

The combat wing organization is critical to both the service's expeditionary mind-set and to individual career progression, said Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, recently while

talking about combat wing organization and several other topics.

The support group change isn't the only Laughlin group to be affected by the reorganization. In the current wing organization, maintenance functions and personnel are "owned" by operational unit commanders. Under the new plan, maintainers will work for maintainers and form a pure maintenance group under one commander while maintaining their close relationship with

operations. At Laughlin, because the aircraft maintainers are civilian, there won't be a maintenance group; a maintenance directorate will report directly to the 47th Flying Training Wing Commander instead of the 47th Operations Group Commander.

Units have until Sept. 30, 2003, to make the change.

**See 'Change,' page 4**

## Town hall meeting set

**By Airman Timothy J. Stein**  
*Staff writer*

Base people will have a chance to express their cares and concerns about the Del Rio education system at a town hall meeting hosted by Col. Ken Smith, 47th Flying Training Wing Vice Commander, at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the base theater.

This will be the second town hall meeting devoted to education in eight months. It is designed to allow a forum for discussing how the base and Del Rio communities can work more closely together to bring local schools up to the standard expected by base parents.

There will be several officials from the Del Rio education system on hand to field questions.

Free childcare will be available at the Laughlin chapel annex during the town hall meeting.



Photo by Dave Niebergall

### Movin' on up

(From left) Tech. Sgts. Greg Bosarge, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron; Jeffrey Cunningham, 86th Flying Training Squadron; Robert Harrell, 47th Operations Support Squadron; Robert Ochs, 47th OSS; and Guy Wells, 47th Contracting Squadron, are inducted into the senior NCO ranks during the Senior NCO Induction Ceremony Saturday at Club XL. Tech. Sgt. Charlene Benge, 47th OSS, was also inducted but was not able to attend the ceremony. Each of the technical sergeants have a line number for promotion to master sergeant. Chief Master Sgt. Herbert Williams Jr., Headquarters 19th Air Force command chief master sergeant, was the guest speaker.

## Children visit parent's work

**By Airman Yvonne Conde**  
*Staff writer*

Laughlin children are invited to spend the day with their parents at work Aug. 9 as part of Bring Your Child to Work Day, a combination of April's nationwide Take Our Daughters to Work and May's Take Our Sons to Work days.

AETC wanted to establish a connection between families and the workplace. It allows children the opportunity to be aware of possible careers as well as understand the mission of the base, said Aida Gutierrez, Family Support Center family life education manager.

"The program is geared toward children that are older because they are in the stage where they are exposed to the career world, and this gives them options," said Gutierrez.

**See 'Child,' page 4**

**Congratulations Col. Eric J. Rosborg on your recent selection as the 4th Fighter Wing Commander at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. Team XL thanks you and Elizabeth for your service and wishes you the best of luck at Seymour Johnson.**



## Commanders' Corner

By Nick Campiglia  
47th Services Division chief

### Services works to improve life on base

I have a great job here at Laughlin. The many people and I in the services division help support the mission of Laughlin Air Force Base. We support the training of pilots by providing world-class programs and services for those who support them and their families.

Every now and then a great idea comes along that allows us to put together programs that bring the mission to life. This year we have put two such ideas into play, the first being our basewide quarterly services party.

The money for these events comes from you, our services customer. It's especially gratifying to be able to put on community programs

and funnel the profits from our business and recreational activities back to our mission as needed equipment and programs. Basewide recreational programs foster camaraderie and esprit de corps.

Last January, with wing leadership support, we worked a plan for what have become benchmark events. The first of these events, the 2002 Hay Ride and Hoe-Down, was held in May and we then exceeded every expectation with a second such event, the 2002 Laughlin Beach Bash.

These events hosted more than 2,000 people and boosted the morale of every person attending. During the weeks that followed these events,

it's all base personnel talked about what huge successes.

Services is in business to improve morale. Based on the tremendous volunteer and customer attendance support at both events, it appears we are meeting this mission.

So, not to sit back and become comfortable with what we have accomplished, we are now moving into our next major event, the next quarterly services party is the Laughlin Sock Hop scheduled for Sept. 20. Like its predecessors, this party is not to be missed.

We are bringing back the

**See 'Services,' page 3**

## Top Three Talk

By Master Sgt. Terry Hockless  
47th Comptroller Flight military pay technician



### Supervisors pave way for future successes

I joined the Air Force after graduating from high school, even though I was a member of the Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. The Air Force was never an option. My three uncles and a brother served on active duty in the Navy, so we were a "Navy family."

After talking with a cousin who swayed from the family tradition and joined the Air Force, I was immediately intrigued. Imagine the disappointment of my instructors, friends and relatives when I returned from the recruiter's office, proud of my decision to join the Air Force. To this day, it is a decision I still reflect on with the same pride that stirred my early interest in the Air Force.

Along with the opportunity to serve my country, travel, training and

education were some of the primary reasons for joining the Air Force.

After completing basic and technical training, I was assigned to Altus Air Force Base, Okla., a small base in a small community. Initially, I could go on about what Altus did not offer for a guy coming from an urban environment in Beaumont, Texas. In time, I realized what mattered most was where you are and what you're doing.

I hit the ground running, learning all aspects of my job as a military pay technician, along with the lessons I learned from supervisors (whom I dared not approach with a question unless I had researched it in the regulation).

Those initial "grooming" years at Altus paid dividends at rates the stock market could not match! I

credit the leadership and mentorship of supervisors, co-workers and friends at Altus for the successes and accolades, opportunities that have come my way to date.

Now I find myself at Laughlin, with similar circumstances and surroundings as Altus. However, the roles are now reversed and it's now my turn to provide the training, leadership and mentorship, and I do so proudly.

For those who compare my initial reaction to being assigned to Altus to Laughlin, I challenge you to learn all you can about your job and surroundings. Know that each assignment prepares you for the next and when you look back you'll discover it was the people who led, trained, motivated and mentored you who mattered most.



#### Editorial Staff

**Col. Rick Rosborg**  
Commander

**1st Lt. Paula Kurtz**  
Public affairs chief

**2nd Lt. Jessica Miller**  
Internal information chief  
**Senior Airman Brad Pettit**  
Editor

**Airman Timothy J. Stein**  
Staff writer

**Airman Yvonne Conde**  
Staff writer

The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Border Eagle are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Del Rio News Herald of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color or religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

#### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to:  
**bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil**  
**timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil**

***"Excellence –  
not our goal, but  
our  
standard."***

– 47th FTW motto

## America appreciates your efforts

By Gen. John P. Jumper  
Air Force chief of staff

Secretary of the Air Force James Roche and I continue to be impressed and proud of the contributions all Air Force people are making to the success of our Air and Space Expeditionary Force. As I talk with airmen and their families around the world, I understand the stress and sacrifices our continuing high operations tempo leaves on many of our people. The secretary and I want to express our gratitude and admiration to everyone supporting this critical effort. A grateful American public recognize and appreciate your dedication and hard work as well.

As we continue to meet the daily demands of the AEF we remain committed to our goal of 3-month AEF rotations. However, as we demobilize Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members and release most AFSCs from Stop-Loss to meet end strength requirements, the available pool of deployable personnel will decrease. Consequently, people in certain career fields will exceed the three-month rotation

target and their tours will be either 135 or 179 days. Presently, there are approximately 1,600 Air Force members on extended tour lengths, and this number will increase in AEF 5/6 as we feel the effects of demobilization and Stop-Loss. We are absolutely committed to ensure our members on ETLs know who they are, and when they will redeploy.

We also remain committed to exploring every option available in order to alleviate the disconnect between extended tour lengths and our three-month rotation goal. For example, we are: asking combatant commanders to revalidate their deployment requirements; increasing the pool of people postured to deploy; examining the military-civilian-contractor force mix; retraining people where possible; increasing accessions into stressed career fields and, adjusting the current AEF scheduling where and when it makes sense.

I ask that you convey this message to your people and assure them that the Secretary and I will work hard to resolve these challenges. Thank you for all you are doing for America and our Air Force.

### 'Services,' from page 2

fundamentals of good old-fashioned partying – great food, great music, fun attractions and great people. Once again we will call upon Club XL to provide a top quality meal, this time in the style of 1950s pop culture, that fabulous American institution, the drive-in. We are bringing back the most popular band to ever play at Laughlin AFB, that early rock sensation "The Blue Crowns."

I sincerely hope to see every Laughlin community member there to enjoy another really great event.

The second program I want to share will positively affect the Laughlin community in an area already identified as one of Air Education and Training Command's best community assets, Club XL. It is a new Air Force Club initiative called Members First.

How does it work? Effective Oct. 1, all Air Force clubs

will change the way they have done business for the past five years. The Members First program will establish a member exclusivity while focusing on member value. Each time you as a club member show your club card, you will receive a reward, special treatment, special access and other exclusive offers.

The program is focused on the idea that club membership pays and introduces Members First Discount Pricing. Members First will provide all Air Force club members with discounts on food, entertainment and special events. No matter where you travel, you will be provided the same discounts worldwide. Members First replaces the current Member Value Pricing program and represents a change in the way Air Force clubs have done business over the past five years.

The Members First program highlights the benefits of club membership. We want to re-

establish the exclusivity of Air Force clubs as membership organizations, while focusing on membership value.

Air Force focus groups and other membership research revealed what we here at Laughlin already knew and programmed for, taking care of our members. Under the old system, club members did not perceive a direct benefit. That will change for the rest of the Air Force community, as club members worldwide will now receive discounts at the point of purchase. Club XL members will continue to enjoy the same low "members only" prices now reflected as a discount to the nonmember price.

The most important thing about these programs is they are for our members. They support our wing by enhancing the quality of life of its members. All of us at services appreciate the opportunity to support Laughlin AFB, the superior people and the vital mission.

## Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.



Rick Rosborg  
**Col. Rick Rosborg**  
47th FTW Commander

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

### Muddy tracks

**Question:** I've been here three years now. Since I've been here, a part of the jogging track has been covered in dirt and when it rains it turns to mud. I called one time to have them clear it, but they never did. It's just awful and disgusting if you're trying to push your stroller through it after it has rained.

**Answer:** Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I have asked our civil engineers to identify a permanent solution to stop mud and debris from collecting on the trail. In the meantime, we will monitor the trail after each rainfall to ensure it is free of mud.

## Airmanship

*Intended to help all airmen articulate the Air Force's vision of aerospace power*

### What does expeditionary aerospace force mean?

Simply, expeditionary aerospace force means the Air Force will conduct the vast majority of its important business away from our garrison locations. Use of the word expeditionary is purposefully designed to encourage a new way of thinking among Air Force airmen about conducting aerospace operations with minimal notice from generally austere, remote locations with minimal support.

**‘Change,’ from page 1**

“Right now, if you’re a maintainer, you look up to the head of your leadership, and it’s the operations group commander,” General Jumper said. “Chances are, you can never be that person.

“I want maintainers to be able to have a career progression that leads them to the head of a maintenance organization, and I want them to be as experienced at maintaining airplanes as operations group commanders [are] at flying airplanes,” he said.

According to General Jumper, the idea of maintainers being commanded by maintainers is not new to the Air Force.

“From 1978 to 1991 we had deputy commanders for maintenance,” he said. “It was the system that got us into [Operation] Desert Storm with 92 percent mission capable rates in the fighter world.”

Besides enhancing maintenance career progression, this combat wing organization will

strengthen the Air Force’s ability to mobilize.

“The hard part [of mobility] is going to be the mission support function,” he said. “It’s going to entail everything...from crisis action planning, working with the joint system to get deployable loads into the airlift system, visibility of the [cargo] while it’s in transit and the bedding down at the far end.”

Other deployable mission support functions will include planning and constructing a tent city, storing fuel and munitions, and plugging into the supply system from the forward-operating base.

“It’s a skill set that none of our officers have in total right now,” the chief of staff said. “But the new expeditionary support discipline will take all of these into account.

“The span of control is going to take into account all those skills and specialties that a commander has to be familiar with to set up a large tent city operation and make it work,” General Jumper said. “I think that’s very important.”

Because all Air Force wings will be structured similarly to deployed organizations, the service will have a broader base from which to select support group commanders, General Jumper said.

“When we deploy, it’s going to be in an expeditionary organization that I would like to look very much like the one we left back home,” General Jumper said. “If you’re a support commander in a missile wing, air mobility wing, fighter or bomber wing, you can be called to command a support activity at a tent city...because we’ve trained them all in the same way,” he said.

Other aspects of the wing reorganization include the creation of logistics readiness squadrons by merging supply and transportation squadrons; adding those new LRSs, contracting squadrons and aerial ports to existing support groups; and combining three officer career fields (supply, transportation and logistics plans) into a single logistics readiness officer career field.

(Courtesy of AFPN)

**‘Child,’ from page 1**

“It also allows children to understand what their parents do all day at work.”

Laughlin combined the two days into a single day during the summer. This allows the children to attend the event without missing school, and this also reduces distractions in the workplace.

A tour of the base is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. to enhance the unit’s activities. The children must be 8 years old to attend the event and registered by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. To register for the tour and event, call the Family Support Center at 298-5620.

For details about Bring Your Child to Work Day events, call Aida Gutierrez at 298-5327.

# Newslines

## Cessation Class

The next Tobacco Cessation Course starts at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in the health and wellness center conference room.

For more information, call 298-6463 or 298-6464.

## Yoga classes

The health and wellness center is hosting weekly prenatal yoga classes from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in the HAWC classroom.

The classes will include a 10-minute introduction and warm up, 20-minute yoga/stretch, 15-minute strengthening/muscle toning and 15-minute relaxation techniques.

Classes are free. The instructor has certifications in prenatal fitness, power stretch and yoga.

Participants should take comfortable clothing, a yoga mat, pillow and plenty of water to class.

For more information, call the HAWC at 298-6464.

## Savings bonds

This year’s national savings bond campaign has come to an end, but savings bonds can still be purchased.

Bonds can be purchased at finance, local banks, on the internet and, even in some cases, at supermarket stores.

If you have any questions about savings bonds, see your squadron representative, or call 1st Lt. Michael Zwolve at 298-4344.

## Honor guard

The Laughlin Honor Guard is looking for motivated airmen and noncommissioned officers to join this elite group of professionals.

For more information or if you are interested in joining, call Staff Sgt. Anthony Williams at 298-5159.

## Lost items

The 47th Security Forces Squadron investigations section has had numerous items turned in, such as keys and jewelry.

If you are missing any type of personal property, call Staff Sgt. Paul Bogumil at 298-5248 with a full description of the missing item.

**Interested in the  
Air Force?**  
*Call Del Rio’s Air Force  
recruiter at 774-0911.*

# Former top enlisted adviser for AETC dies

The seventh person to hold the top enlisted position for the Air Force’s training command died July 16.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert W. Carter was the senior enlisted advisor for Air Training Command from July 15, 1983, to Oct. 31, 1985.

“Chief Carter was a ‘chief’s chief,’” said Chief Master Sgt. William A. Milligan, command chief master sergeant for Air Education and Training Com-

mand. “He was a sharp senior NCO who was always willing to go the extra mile for the enlisted folks.”

Chief Carter served in the Air Force for 35 years, more than 22 of those years as a chief. He lived in San Antonio after retiring from the Air Force in 1985.

Chief Carter was born in February 1931 in Marshalltown, Iowa, where he graduated from Union High School and attended Marshalltown Junior College.

He enlisted in the Air Force in September 1950. Following basic training he attended the Air Police Course at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Chief Carter graduated from the Noncommissioned Officers Preparatory School in 1956 and from the 2nd Air Force Noncommissioned Officers Academy in 1960. In January 1973 he was among the first 102 chief master sergeants to graduate with the first class of the Air Force Senior Noncommis-

sioned Officers Academy.

His first assignment was Attebury AFB, Ind., as an air policeman. Other assignments included Royal Air Force Mildenhall, U.K., and Castle AFB, Calif., before cross training into the management analysis career field in 1955. Subsequent assignments included RAF Greenham Common, U.K.; Lincoln AFB, Neb.; Barksdale AFB, La.; Offutt AFB, Neb., and Webb AFB, Texas.

Chief Carter’s first assignment as a senior enlisted advisor was with the 3560th Pilot Training Wing at Webb AFB, Texas, in 1968. Other advisor positions included the 3510th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB; Headquarters Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB; and the Air Force Military Training Center, Lackland AFB. His last job in the Air Force was as the senior enlisted advisor for Air Training Command.

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

Recycle this  
newspaper.

**Interested in the Air Force?** *Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.*

# Health care benefits improve

**By Tech. Sgt.  
Tim Dougherty**  
*Air Force Print News*

A recent change to health care benefits will be a big help for Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard people who were mobilized in support of the war on terrorism.

Under the revised transitional health care benefit plan, Reserve and Guard people who were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency and have more than six years total active federal service are eligible for 120 days of health care following their period of active service.

Guard and Reserve members with less than six years service will get 60 days of continued medical care. Under a worldwide demonstration project, family members are also covered under this plan. This program is retroactive to Jan. 1.

Eligibility for these benefits will be determined by information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

The Defense Manpower Data Center is sending a letter to people who are eligible for this benefit, but only if the information in DEERS reflects their having served in support of a contingency operation such as operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom.

An enrollment form is available on the Tricare Web site or at a local Tricare service center. No enrollment is necessary for Tricare Standard or Extra.

# Rumsfeld discusses threat posed by Iraqi forces

By Jim Garamone  
*American Forces Press Service*

Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq has chemical and biological weapons and is seeking to develop nuclear capabilities, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Tuesday.

Rumsfeld said the U.S. government has been explaining to people at home and abroad what this capability plus Iraq’s ties to organizations like al Qaeda mean to the security of the world.

He said Iraq’s efforts at concealing weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them are indicative of the problem worldwide. He said Iraq and other countries are “burrowing underground” to conceal these facilities. They are also building mobile facilities, which make them difficult to find and hit.

Further complicating the situation is dual-use technologies. These are technologies that have a benign civilian use and a military use. Examples are technologies that can make medicines, but also can be used to make biological weapons.

Finding all these facilities is difficult. “Think back to Iraq, and the number of inspectors that were milling about that country for a good, long period and the difficulty they had – except when prompted by defectors – to know where things were,” Rumsfeld said.

He opined about having U.N. inspectors back in Iraq looking for weapons of mass destruction, missiles and factories to make such weapons. “It would take such a thoroughly intrusive inspection regime, agreed to and then lived up to by Iraq, that it’s difficult to ... even begin to think they might accept such a regime,” he said.

He said any inspection regime in Iraq would have to be without notice. Inspectors must have the freedom to go anywhere at anytime. “I still suspect it would require the assistance of defectors and insiders simply because of the ease of hiding things,” he said.

Rumsfeld said it is no secret a regime change in Iraq has been U.S. policy for some time. The policy started in the Clinton administration, is approved by Congress and is supported by the Bush administration. He said the United States is addressing this in a variety of ways including through diplomatic, economic and military means.

He said operations in Afghanistan are going well. He cited the number of refugees returning to the country as a positive step. He said reports from nongovernmental agencies support the idea that the country is getting safer.

Still, a great amount of work has to be done in the country. More than 20 years of war and civil war topped by drought have placed an enormous burden on the country. “It is important that people recognize the magnitude of the job being faced by the transitional government,” he said.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Afghanistan is still a dangerous environment. “Over the weekend, five U.S. soldiers were wounded and two friendly Afghan fighters were killed,” he said.

Three ambushers were killed with two other possibles and two detainees picked up.

# F-15 Eagles still flying high at 30

**By Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely**  
*Air Force Print News*

The F-15 Eagle turned 30 years old Saturday, but those who fly it or maintain it say this bird is as spry as ever.

Considering the numbers that really count, the aircraft is mission perfect. It currently boasts a combat record of 104 kills without a loss, a score that includes Israeli and Saudi Arabian air force F-15s.

“It’s holding up very well for its 30 years,” said Master Sgt. Jeroy Stelly, a section chief for the 2nd Fighter Squadron’s crew chiefs at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. “That has a lot to do with the people who work on them.”

Pilots at Tyndall AFB are not surprised the Eagle is still the world’s premier air superiority fighter, even after three decades of service.

Is the aircraft ready for pasture? “Not at all,” said Lt. Col. Matt Donovan, 95th Fighter Squadron commander, “It’s just a superb fighting airplane.”

The colonel said the F-15 is programmed to continue flying through at least 2015.

Capt. Dwight Minnick, a 1st Fighter Squadron maintenance officer, agreed with Stelly that the Eagle is weathering the years far

beyond expectations.

“The aircraft was designed with a life span of approximately 5,000 hours, and many of our aircraft are well over the 5,000-hour mark, but you wouldn’t know it based upon how well these jets are flying,” Capt. Minnick said.

“Airframes tend to show more stress fatigue over time in the form of cracks and stuff, but overall they can withstand a lot,” said Master Sgt. Moody Summerell, a flight chief assistant for the 95th FS crew chiefs. “I believe the corrosion prevention and overall dedicated maintenance performed now and in the past are the prime reasons the F-15 has been around so long.”

Despite the aircraft’s high hours, Colonel Donovan said, “I’m as confident flying in one today as I was 19 years ago when I started flying them. A lot of that is due to our maintainers.”

Colonel Donovan was proud to point out his own maintainers have notched the world’s highest F-15 mission capable rates.

“That’s due in no small part to the 19- and 20-year-old heroes of mine who come in and take care of these airplanes, tap the pilots on the shoulders and say, ‘Take care of it,’” he said.

Colonel Donovan also credits



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

A 95th Fighter Squadron F-15 Eagle taxis out for a training sortie July 24 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. The F-15 Eagle turned 30 years old Saturday and currently boasts a combat record of 104 kills without a loss, a score that includes Israeli and Saudi Arabian air force F-15s.

strong training programs for much of the Eagle’s success.

“I think another real key is the superior training and capabilities of the pilots who fly it,” he said.

The colonel said he has seen U.S. Air Force F-15 pilots demonstrate their high-quality training during exercises by consistently winning dissimilar air engagements against foreign, highly matched “opponent” pilots and aircraft, such as front-line Russian-built fighters. The same success resulted when U.S. Air Force pilots swapped aircraft with their adversaries.

With the Eagle notching 30 years of service, it is obvious around Tyndall that its own F-15s are as old or older than most of the students here training to fly it.

Three decades old or not, the F-15 inspires as much awe as ever in those who see it, maintain it or fly it for the first time.

“The Eagle isn’t just impressive, it’s imposing,” said B-course student 1st Lt. Tony Bierenkoven. “Its sheer size is the first thing a person will notice when (he or she gets) up close. A plane that large being able to maneuver like it does speaks for itself.”



**The Air Force  
rewards  
good ideas with  
money.  
Check out the  
IDEA  
Program data  
system at  
[https://  
ideas.randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil),  
or call 298-5236.**

# SGLI: important protection for military members

Compiled from staff reports

Many airmen just entering the service may not realize the severity of the oath they faithfully raised their right hand for. “I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic...” – In this age of increased terrorism, that phrase could very well mean putting one’s life on the line. Airmen must ask themselves, “How well have I prepared my family for the potential loss of my life.”

While many military benefits are set up to provide aid in the untimely death of a military member, none may be more important than the Servicemember’s Group Life Insurance. At a relatively low cost to the member (as compared to premiums for the same insurance from a private company), SGLI offers a chance for peace of mind knowing that there is a backup plan in the case of his or her death.

Here is some information about SGLI:

**Coverage**

Military members are automatically covered for up to \$250,000. The member may decline coverage or choose to lower the amount in \$10,000 increments. The premium is \$.80 per \$10,000 of coverage – \$20 per month for those who choose the full benefit.

“This is a great deal for Air Force people,” said Maj. Jerry Couvillion, Air Force Personnel Center casualty services branch chief. “I don’t know of any better deal out there.”

**Spouse coverage**

Participation in the SGLI program for spouses is voluntary, but should seriously be considered before making the decision not to enroll, said personnel officials.

“The inclusion of spouses gives military members and their children some financial help in the unfortunate event of a family member’s death,” said Major Couvillion.

The spouse coverage comes in \$10,000 increments and cannot exceed the amount of coverage the military member carries, up to \$100,000.

**Coverage for dependent children**

Coverage for dependent children is automatic and there are no premiums associated. It is free. “If the military member holds any amount of SGLI, then their children are automatically enrolled for \$10,000,” said Major Couvillion. “Wow! Where else can you get free life insurance for your children?”

Members who hold SGLI coverage for themselves will not be able to disenroll their dependent children from the program.

**Military married to military**

The SGLI program does not make the distinction between spouses who are military members themselves and those who are not.

Although coverage for children is automatic, children from dual military families will not receive coverage from both parents. They will receive coverage via the member who claims them through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

If, by chance, that member is not enrolled in SGLI, then the children’s coverage will divert to the parent who is.

**Enrolling**

The military member can enroll, make changes to the amount of coverage they hold, enroll or disenroll spouse coverage or reduce the coverage amount – by visiting his or her local military personnel flight.

People not enrolled in the SGLI program still

have time to take advantage of the added benefits.

“Anyone wanting to enroll can do so at any time,” Major Couvillion said. “And when they enroll, their spouse and children are automatically going to be enrolled as well.”

**Beneficiary**

Completing the election form correctly is essential to ensuring the beneficiaries you intend receive their payment, Air Force officials said. There is concern about people who either indicate no SGLI beneficiary or select the “by law” option without full understanding of the potential consequences.

According to the statute, the proceeds will first go to the spouse. If there is no spouse, surviving children share the proceeds equally. Next in line are surviving parents. If there are no parents, the proceeds will go to the executor of the deceased’s estate. In the absence of an executor, the proceeds go to the next of kin according to state law.

There are situations where failing to fill in a beneficiary or using the “by law” designation may not work for a person’s specific desires. Everyone’s situation is unique, and taking the time now to properly designate your intended recipients will save needless, costly litigation later.

People should discuss whether the “by law” designation is right for them with their legal assistance attorney.

The bottom line is to know how your loved ones will be taken care of in the possibility of your death. SGLI may not be for everyone, but doing the homework is worth the time.

For more information on the SGLI program, visit either the Department of Veterans Affairs SGLI Web site at <http://www.insurance.va.gov> or the AFPC casualty Web site at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/casualty>.

The mercury is rising. Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water!

# Chapel Schedule

**Catholic**

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass  
*Sunday* ● 9:30 a.m., Mass  
● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall  
*Thursday* ● 6 p.m., Choir  
*Tuesday-Friday* ● 12:05 p.m., Mass  
● 12:05 p.m. and 7 p.m., Holy Days of Obligation  
*Reconciliation* ● Before Sunday Mass, Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. and by appointment  
*Religious Education* ● 11 a.m. and noon Sunday

- Jewish** ● Call Max Stool at 775-4519

- Muslim** ● Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

**Nondenominational**

- Friday* ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Services

**Protestant**

- Saturday* ● 6 p.m., Singles Bible study  
*Sunday* ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school for all ages in chapel annex  
● 11 a.m., General worship  
● 6 p.m., Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238 for details.  
*Wednesday* ● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

**For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.**

# The *XLer*

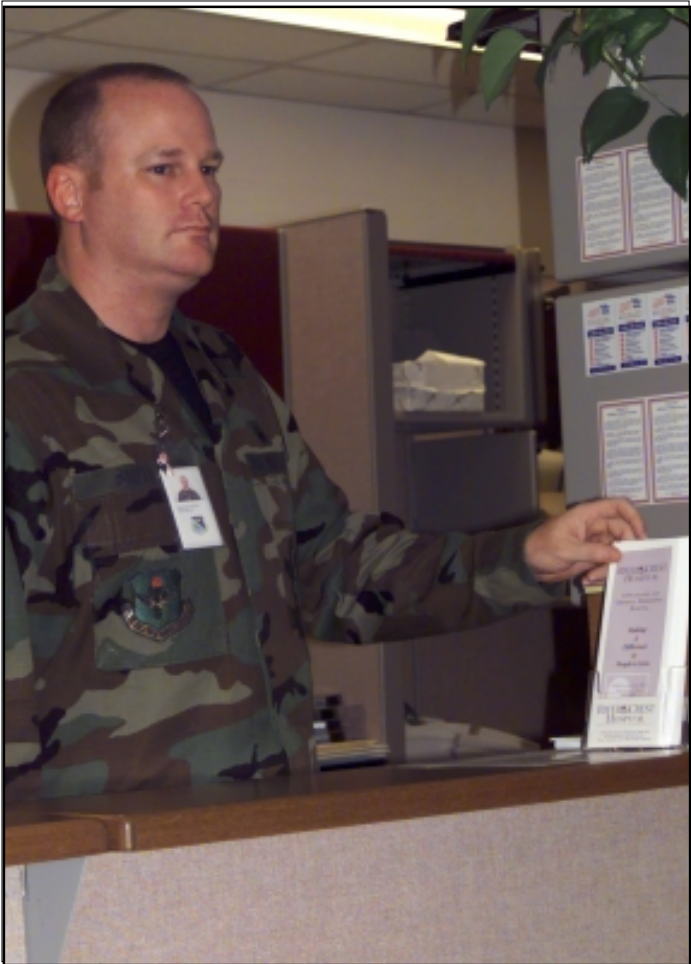


Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

**Staff Sgt. Ralph Smith**

*47th Medical Operations Squadron life skills flight NCOIC*

**Hometown:** San Antonio

**Family:** Mother, Joanne; father, Ralph Jr.; brother, Charles

**Time at Laughlin:**

1 year

**Time in service:**

12 years

**Greatest accomplishment:**

Becoming a drug and alcohol counselor and making technical sergeant

**Hobbies:** Yardwork,

shopping and traveling

**Bad habit:** Unhealthy food

**Favorite film:**

Pearl Harbor

**Favorite musician:**

Garth Brooks

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My niece, Haley. I don't get to see her that often.

# 'Natural' doesn't always mean it's safe

By Capt. Lisa Firestone  
47th Medical Group flight surgeon

In the 21st century, modern western medicine has seen an influx of eastern influence contributing to the growing popularity of alternative medicine.

Alternative therapies are defined as medical interventions that are not readily available in U.S. hospitals and are not widely taught in U.S. medical schools. Such therapies include chiropractic, homeopathy, acupuncture, and herbal remedies.

For a growing percentage of the population, these unconventional treatments include the use of over-the-counter "natural" and "herbal" remedies. Advertisements for such products often equate "natural" with safe. Remember, Uranium, Radon, tobacco, and radiation are natural, too. Potentially severe and lasting side effects are seldom described on the product packaging.

I had a firsthand look at just how dangerous these supposedly healthy products can be when an 18-year-old female tech student was brought into the emergency room where I was working. This previously healthy woman was experiencing severe agitation, paranoia and suicidal thoughts.

Four weeks prior to her admission to the hospital, she began taking a "thermogenic diet pill" to help keep her awake. Each pill contained 334 mg of MaHuang extract (equivalent to 20 mg ephedrine) and 909 mg of Guarana extract (equivalent to 100 mg of caffeine).

Three days prior to her admission to the hospital, the patient became delusional. She began to suspect that the cafeteria food was poisoned and that other tech students in her class were being used as "prostitutes." She was unable to concentrate on her studies or complete given tasks. The patient was hospitalized. The

diet pills were stopped and all sources of caffeine were removed from the patient's diet. Her agitation and confusion resolved quickly. However, her paranoid delusions and her suicidal thoughts lingered for several weeks.

The ephedrine-caffeine combination found in these diet pills is a commonly marketed over-the-counter weight loss product. It is readily available and there is no requirement for possible side effects to be mentioned on the product. The "natural" quality of the pills does not ensure their safety. Just because a product does not require a prescription does not make it inherently safe.

Agitation, psychosis and seizures are well-described side effects noted in the medical literature. Sudden increases in high amounts of caffeine consumption have been associated with delirium, anxiety, hostility and psychosis. When caffeine is chroni-

cally ingested in high amounts, as in this case, an acute confusional state may develop if the drug is abruptly discontinued.

Ephedrine, like caffeine, can cause psychosis and psychomotor agitation. The relationship between these two drugs is synergistic. Thus, when used together, moderate doses of these drugs may precipitate or exacerbate neuropsychiatric injury. Although the drugs are rapidly eliminated from the body, these side effects may persist into a lasting abnormality.

Although this "thermogenic diet pill" and many other products like it are readily available on drugstore shelves, they are not without serious side effects.

Schedule an appointment with your physician to discuss any vitamins, herbal remedies, dietary supplements or protein powders that you are taking.

## Steady putt..

Hoppy Henegar, Lear Siegler, Inc. T-1 simulator instructor, attempts a birdie putt on the fourth hole at Leaning Pine Golf Course during the intramural golf finals Wednesday. LSI won the base golf championship with a score of 273, Laughlin Civil Service Aircraft Maintenance took second with a score of 276 and the 86th Flying Training Squadron took third with a score of 292.



Photo by Airman Timothy J. Stein

## Softball standings

| American League |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| OSS #1          | 2-1 |
| 87th FTS        | 2-2 |
| 86th FTS        | 1-2 |
| LCSAM #1        | 1-2 |
| 84/85 FTS       | 1-3 |
| Trendwestern    | 0-1 |
| National League |     |
| CES             | 3-0 |
| Med Group       | 3-0 |
| SFS             | 3-2 |
| LSI             | 2-1 |
| OSS #2          | 2-2 |
| CCS             | 1-2 |
| LCSAM #2        | 0-3 |

